

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

<https://zoom.us/j/83110285038>

THURSDAY, November 13, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	S 24	O 24	N 24	D 24	J 25	F 25	M 25	A 25	M 25	J 25	O 25	N 25	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	*	*	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	Commissioner Fernandez
Preston Dickerson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	*	*	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	Commissioner Lara
Amy Dash	*	*	E	E	E	E	U	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	*	*	P	U	U	P	P	P	P	P	U	P	Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
U – Unexcused
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Assistant PW Director, Greenspace
Sayleen Arocha-Quian, Landscape Designer, Greenspace
Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary, Greenspace

GUEST:

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson, City of Coral Gables

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed October 9th, 2025, minutes. A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of October 9th, 2025”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

Vice Mayor Anderson was in attendance, and a discussion followed on several items related to the city's landscaping and beautification efforts.

Micro Forest Project: The board met on the last Arbor Day at the open greenspace located at Coral Way and Red Road, where the Vice Mayor presented the Micro forest project. Ms. Arocha prepared and presented two design options. The plans are currently under review in the City Manager's Office.

The project focuses on native tree species to promote diversity and create a passive, park-like environment. It will include crushed-stone walking paths and will feature last year's Arbor Day plantings, the two Lignum Vitae trees—prominently at the center. The Garden Club has completed a commemorative plaque for the Arbor Day trees, which will be installed on the south side soon.

Two funding options are under consideration:

- **Option A:** Larger park with approximately 130 trees
- **Option B:** Smaller park with approximately 80 trees

Funding efforts have begun, with the Garden Club raising \$25,000 and additional contributions from the Vice Mayor and other donors. A detailed presentation of the plan will be given to the Garden Club at the January 2026 meeting.

Biltmore Way Streetscape: The CIP project for planting street trees along Biltmore Way between Segovia and Anderson is approximately 80% complete. The project includes removal of existing sidewalks, installation of new irrigation, and creation of tree cutouts to accommodate three selected street tree species: Bulnesia (yellow flowers), Japanese Fern Trees, and White Tabebuia. These species were chosen to provide both shade and seasonal flowering. Sidewalks will be reconstructed with a narrower design to allow adequate space for tree growth. Soil preparation includes excavating three feet, blending new soil with existing material, and using a mix of 70% sand and 30% muck to create an optimal sandy substrate. A pH test is performed to confirm compatibility with the selected tree species.

City Hall Trees: The consultant has completed approximately 50% of the design plans for the south side of City Hall along Biltmore Way. The project involves creating detached bump-outs in the roadway to maintain proper street drainage. Approximately 7–8 parking spaces will be removed and replaced with landscaped planting areas featuring Bulnesia trees.

Library Sculpture Garden: The unveiling at the Coral Gables Library Butterfly Garden, 3443 Segovia St., will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6. Created to honor the Garden Club's 100th anniversary, the donated artwork serves as both a visual landmark and an educational resource for the community.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Submissions are due for the next board meeting in December.

There is a total of seven zones, each assigned to a board member:

Zone 1: SW 8th St to Anastasia Ave, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Kurt Schubert

Zone 2: 8th St to Grand Ave, Douglas Rd to LeJeune Rd – Liz Parnes

Zone 3: Anastasia Ave to Blue Rd, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Nancy Leslie

Zone 4: Blue Rd to S Dixie Hwy, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Anne Boynton-Trigg

Zone 5: S Dixie Hwy to Sunset Rd, Red Rd to Grand Ave – Amy Dash

Zone 6: Davis Rd to Arvida Pkwy, Sunset Rd to the Bay – Carolina Estefan-Chahine

Zone 7: Arvida Pkwy to Dolphin Dr, Red Rd to the Bay – Preston Dickerson

VICE CHAIR POSITION ELECTION: Vice Chair position needed to be filled, and Ms. Parnes was nominated. The responsibilities of the role include serving as a backup to the Board Chair when the Chair is absent. **A motion was made to “Nominate Ms. Parnes for the Vice Chair position”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

FARMER’S MARKET PRESENTATION: The Board discussed potential dates for next year’s Coral Gables Farmers Market presentation: January 31, February 21 and 28, and March 14. The Board will also contact Greenspace Superintendent Jorge Rivera for additional information and guidance for the topic **“*Understanding Street Tree and Sidewalk Maintenance Responsibilities*”**; it will cover sidewalk repair responsibilities (city vs. property owner), proper pruning practices and maintenance expectations, ADA compliance and trip hazard repairs.

EVENT PLANNING 2026:

Arbor Day Celebration: The annual Arbor Day celebration has been scheduled for April 24, 2026. The Coral Gables Garden Club will collaborate on the event and contribute funds for the purchase of the tree. Arbor Day events are typically held in a park, and the Board considered several possible locations, including the Flagler District, the Biltmore Hotel, Enis Park, and the Garden Club House. Board members were assigned to visit Enis Park at 7700 Old Cutler Rd., a newly dedicated park for Veterans Day that could benefit from the addition of a flowering tree.

LBAB OBJECTIVES – PLANNING 2026

Concerns raised regarding construction damage to swales. Discussion on requiring construction staging plans for residences, currently this is only required for commercial properties. Ms. Bell referenced that the planning and zoning department would need to amend the legislation to be included in the permitting process. Planning & Zoning staff are to be invited to next meeting to give advice/come up new ideas to help prevent this.

UPDATE CITY PROJECTS:

Tree Succession Plan: Tree succession 2025 was put out to bid and is being released to a contractor this month. Planting 125 trees in more swales.

Historic Entrances: The entrance on Country Club Prado & 8th St is under redesign. Brand new irrigation and landscaping, crushed stone walkways.

Country Club Prado: Re-landscaping plan submitted with new irrigation to be installed.

US-1 Relandscaping: Brightview landscaping redoing all the medians from the Douglas side on the north all the way down to red road on the south. New native plants are being installed.

Ponce Circle Park: Ms. Bell will bring the designs to the board once they have been presented by the developer.

Fire Station 4 on Sunset Rd: Ms. Bell stated that the landscaping will be completed by the project contractors once the building is finished. The landscape plan includes the parking lot, which will feature abundant shade trees.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 at 10:30 AM